

**CHARLOTTE MUSEUM OF HISTORY TO CELEBRATE RE-OPEN HISTORIC KITCHEN
WITH AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR AND CHEF MICHAEL TWITTY**

***“Carolinas Home Cooking” Event Will Feature Cooking Demonstrations, Local Barbeque,
and a Focus on African American Culinary Traditions***

CHARLOTTE, N.C., September 3, 2024 – After significant restoration work, the Charlotte Museum of History announces the re-opening of the historic kitchen on the site of Charlotte’s oldest home, the 1774 Rock House. Beginning on Saturday, September 14 at 10:00am, the Museum will host a day of cooking, learning, and exploring the historic homesite. The event will feature James Beard Award-winning author Michael Twitty, alongside local chefs from Johnson & Wales University, Bobbee O’s Barbeque, and more.

The stone hearth in the kitchen is believed to be the original hearth from the late 18th or early 19th century. In 1983, the log kitchen was constructed around the hearth by a Central Piedmont Community College class using all original tools and materials. Over the last four decades the building has been used for cooking demonstrations and has served as the primary location where Museum staff interpret the history of enslavement on the Historic Homesite.

In 2023, the Mecklenburg Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution led a fundraising effort to celebrate their 125th anniversary. They raised \$60,000 for the restoration, which included replacing rotted beams, making the hearth functional again, and creating a more functional drainage system to prevent similar issues in the future. The restoration work was completed in late August, and the kitchen is now open to visitors for self-guided and guided tours.

The “Carolinas Home Cooking” event on September 14 will be the official public opening event for the restored kitchen and historic hearth. Michael Twitty, author of *The Cooking Gene* (2018 winner of the James Beard Award for Best Food Writing and Book of the Year) and *Koshersoul*, will deliver a talk on African American culinary traditions in the American South, followed by a cooking demonstration in the historic kitchen. Johnson & Wales University will accompany Twitty with historically inspired catered bites, and visitors will be able to purchase barbeque plates from Bobbee O’s. In addition, the event will

feature a Ring Shout performance from students at UNC Charlotte, highlighting the role of enslaved people on the historic homesite.

How to Go

The Museum is located at 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215 and has free parking. The event is free and open to the public, but donations will be accepted. We expect the lecture space to fill up fast, so arrive early to guarantee a seat. More information can be found at <https://charlottemuseum.org/programs-events/events/carolinas-home-cooking/>.

Program Schedule

10:00am: Charlotte Museum of History Members only meet-and-greet with Michael Twitty

10:30am: Doors open to the public

11:00am: Keynote address by Michael Twitty

12:00pm: Live cooking demonstrations + Johnson & Wales experience

3:00pm: Event conclusion

Sponsors and Supporters

Carolina's Home Cooking is sponsored by Culture Blocks - a community partnership funded by Mecklenburg County.

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the National Trust Preservation Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A special thanks to The Mecklenburg Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) for the funds to restore the Log Kitchen.

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region's history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the [1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite](#), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. The museum also is home to the [historic Siloam School, which opens to the public as a historic site in June 2024, after an eight-year fundraising and restoration effort](#). Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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